

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER JAYEWARDENE

REF: COLOMBO 4292

1. COLOMBO PAPERS SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER CARRIED PORTION OF LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER JAYEWARDENE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER, PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU, PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN. FOLLOWING FULL TEXT IS FROM FRONT PAGE OF "WEEKEND" UNDER FOUR COLUMN HEAD "CARTER ASSURES SUBSTANTIAL AID INCREASE TO SRI LANKA."

2. BEGIN TEXT "PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER OF THE UNITED STATES HAS TOLD PRIME MINISTER, MR. J.R. JAYEWARDENE THAT HE HAS ASKED THE CONGRESS FOR A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF AID TO SRI LANKA OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. THIS IS DESPITE AMERICA'S OWN DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS MAKING INCREASING DEMANDS ON ITS RESOURCES.

"PRESIDENT CARTER'S ASSURANCE IS CONTAINED IN A LETTER HE HAS SENT THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. J.R. JAYEWARDENE. EXTRACTS OF THIS LETTER AS WELL AS OTHERS BY WORLD LEADERS WERE RE-UNCLASSIFIED

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LEASED ON FRIDAY BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

" BOTH MY ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS, HOWEVER, WILL ASK THAT THIS INCREASED ASSISTANCE BE MOST EFFECTIVELY PLANNED, DELIVERED AND ADMINISTERED. I WAS THUS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN YOUR DESCRIPTION OF HOW YOUR GOVERNMENT, IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE WORLD BANK AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND, HAS EMBARKED UPON A MAJOR PROGRAM TO RESTRUCTURE SRI LANKA'S

POLICIES.' PRESIDENT CARTER STATED.

BEST WISHES

"PRESIDENT CARTER FURTHER STATES: 'AS ONE WHO HAS BEEN IN OFFICE ONLY SLIGHTLY LONGER, I WOULD NOT PRESUME TO OFFER ADVICE, ONLY MY BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESS. I LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER CONTACTS WITH YOU, NOT ONLY ON BILATERAL MATTERS BUT ALSO ON GLOBAL ISSUES, FOR WE HAVE COME TO LOOK TO SRI LANKA AS A LEADER IN THE CAUSE OF PROGRESS AND MODERATION. I HOPE WE CAN COUNT ON YOU TO CONTRIBUTE THIS ROLE IN THE CHALLENGING DAYS AHEAD.'

" 'I WAS IMPRESSED BY YOUR DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEMS FACING SRI LANKA AND THE STEPS THAT YOU PLAN TO TAKE TO MEET THEM. SRI LANKA STANDS AS A MODEL FOR OTHERS IN ITS ENDEAVORS TO MEET THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS OF ITS PEOPLE WHILE PRESERVING A FREE AND OPEN DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. I AM GLAD THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SRI LANKA IN THE PAST, AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.' PRESIDENT CARTER CONCLUDES.

"PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU, PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA STATES: 'THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS FOLLOWED WITH INTEREST THE RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN SRI LANKA INCLUDING THE SUCCESSFUL CONFIRMATION OF YOUR DEEPLY-ROOTED DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN THE ELECTION WHICH BROUGHT YOUR GOVERNMENT TO OFFICE. I FIND MOST COMMENDABLE YOUR GOVERNMENT'S STRONG COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES DESIGNED TO BENEFIT YOUR PEOPLE.

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" 'I HAVE BEEN VERY INTERESTED TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR AIMS AND INSTRUMENTS DESIGNED TO FURTHER ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT, CANADA WILL BE VERY PLEASED TO MAINTAIN OUR ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT IN A VARIETY OF FIELDS.'

FOREIGN TRADE

"PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING OF FRANCE HAS STATED: 'IN FACT, FRANCE CAN ONLY CONGRATULATE ITSELF, TOGETHER WITH YOU, ON SRI LANKA'S COMMITMENT TO THE DEMOCRATIC AND LIBERAL CHARACTER OF ITS INSTITUTIONS. IN THE SAME WAY, IT CONSIDERS, WITH SYMPATHY AND CONFIDENCE, THE COURAGEOUS STRUCTURAL REFORMS WHICH YOU ARE PREPARING, ESPECIALLY IN THE SECTORS OF CURRENCY, INVESTMENTS AND FOREIGN TRADE, WITH THE FIRM INTENTION OF RESOLVING, IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY, THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH STILL WEIGH HEAVILY ON ITS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

" 'I AM THEREFORE PLEASED AT THE THOUGHT OF THE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH WILL ARISE FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES TO HOLD USEFUL TALKS, WITHIN THESE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, ON THE POSSIBILITIES OFFERED TO FRANCE-CEYLONese CO-OPERATION.

" 'I MAY ASSURE YOU THAT WHERE FRANCE IS CONCERNED, IT WILL REMAIN, AS IN THE PAST AND WITHIN THE SCOPE OF ITS MEANS,

DISPOSED TO FURNISH ITS OWN CONTRIBUTION TO THE MODERNIZATION AND RISE OF CEYLONESE ECONOMY AND THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO WORK, IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MULTILATERAL ORGANISMS OF WHICH IT IS A MEMBER, IN FAVOUR OF AN INCREASE IN INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO YOUR COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT.

"THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, JAMES CALLAGHAN HAS STATED: 'THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT FACES ARE, AS YOU SAY, UNHAPPILY BY NO MEANS CONFINED TO CEYLON, AND THE PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUTH IS ONE WHICH AT PRESENT PRE-OCCUPIES MANY INDUSTRIALLY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED KINGDOM.

" I UNDERSTAND VERY WELL, HOWEVER, THE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS WHICH YOU FACE IN RESTRUCTURING ECONOMIC POLICIES AND PROMOTING A HIGHER LEVEL OF PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENT AND I WELCOME UNCLASSIFIED

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YOUR DECISION TO UNDERTAKE THIS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND.

" I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL BE READY TO PLAY A FULL PART IN THE FUTURE, AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, IN AIDING AND PROMOTING YOUR COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AID GROUP. AS YOU WILL KNOW, WITHIN OUR AID STRATEGY, SRI LANKA'S NEEDS HAVE A HIGH PRIORITY.

" I THEREFORE WELCOME YOUR GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO TAKE EARLY STEPS TO IDENTIFY SUITABLE PROJECTS FOR FINANCING BY DONORS, AND ALSO TO REDUCE SRI LANKA'S PRESENT DEPENDENCE ON COMMODITY AND PROGRAM AID. SUCH A TREND WOULD BE IN LINE WITH OUR OWN APPRECIATION OF THE MOST APPROPRIATE PART WHICH EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE CAN PLAY IN MEETING YOUR COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.' "

WRIGGINS

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